

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated January 21, 2004, the Examiner states that Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-29 are pending, Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 14, 16 18 and 20 are rejected, and Claims 22-29 are withdrawn. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

The Applicant first notes that an Initialed copy of form PTO-1449 submitted February 26, 2002 has not been returned. The Applicant requests that an Initialed copy be returned with the next official communication. If the Examiner needs another copy please contact the undersigned attorney.

In the Office Action, Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite as to the language "wherein the fine particle layer is formed by at least two layers". The Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to state that there is at least one layer of a fine particle layer, to clarify the claims, including Claim 16.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as anticipated by Adkins (U.S. 4,957,816). The Applicant respectfully considers that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to claim that the average size of fine particles used in the fine particle layer is not more than 300 nm. The Applicant does not consider this amendment to constitute new matter requiring further consideration search since this limitation was present in the original claims.

If fine particles having an average particle size exceeding 300 nm are used in the fine particle layer, when a single layer of the fine particles are provided, incident visible light is reflected by the fine particle layer in a scattered and diffused manner, which reduces the visible light transmittance (See page 22, lines 6-15 of the specification). In contrast, Adkins does not disclose that the average particle size of the fine particles should be no more than 300 nm.

Adkins discloses that fine particles of silica are used as an anti-blocking agent (fifth column, lines 45-60). However, particle diameter of the silica is initialed as 2 μm , which is an order of magnitude larger than what is presently claimed. U.S. Patent Nos. 6,066,691 and 6,479,579 also disclose the particle size of particles used

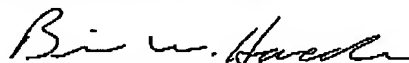
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In anti-blocking agents as being larger than what is presently claimed. Therefore, the Applicant considers that the amended Claim 1, and those claims dependent thereon, are not anticipated by Adkins.

In the Office Action, Claims 3, 5-6, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adkins in view of Wang et al. (U.S. 6,106,948). The Applicant respectfully considers these rejections also overcome by the amendment to independent Claim 1 since Wang et al. also does not disclose the claimed average particle size for the fine particle layer.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Brian W. Hameder
c/o Ladas & Parry
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300
Reg. No. 45613

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